

January 15, 2008

Travel Management Planning Team

Bitterroot National Forest

88 Main Street

Stevensville, MT 59827



To Whom It May Concern:

I feel that the Bitterroot National Forest Service cannot manage the PUBLIC LANDS that they are directed to manage let alone propose more wilderness in the Bitterroot National Forest.

Clearly, there is NO need for additional designated wilderness lands in Montana or the Bitterroot National Forest. The Bitterroot National Travel Management Plan is clearly locking the American people out of OUR PUBLIC LANDS!

What I want to know is, if the Bitterroot National Forest Service is doing active management of our forest as per your directive from Congress? I see a very unhealthy forest out there. Our forest is over 15 times denser than they were a hundred years ago. Trees are crowded into an unhealthy condition. What is the statement "Urban Interface" suppose to mean? Drought conditions coupled with years of fuel buildup from fire suppression and reduced thinning make these lands vulnerable to intense and environmentally destructive fires. We DO NOT NEED these proposed wildernesses in our back yard.

Fuels reduction and management in our Bitterroot National Forest needs to be done in our very small valley to protect our communities, firefighters, heritage sites, fisheries, air quality, citizens, our properties, community and property damage from erosion on the watershed areas, spread of weeds, tourism and our local economics. Creating more wildernesses is a very serious hazard to our small community.

The Bitterroot National Forest needs to MANAGE what they have. The Forest Service needs to take a handle over the litigations and delays from lawsuits by the Environmental Groups. These litigations are destroying our overall environment of our forest.

Sincerely

MaryAnn Goss

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